

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EB-11 ISO-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 /039 W

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R 291811Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4288

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: ENERGY SITUATION REACTION

REF: STATE 234037

1. LOCAL REACTION PORTRAYS US AS SERIOUSLY AFFECTED ECONOMICALLY BY OIL SHORTAGE, WITH PROBLEMS IN EUROPEAN, JAPANESE RELATIONS. UNDERLYING ASSUMPTION IS LEGITIMACY ARAB ASPIRATIONS. POST FEELS OUTPUT SHOULD REFLECT US RESOURCEFULNESS IN PLANS TO DIVERSIFY ENERGY SOURCES, RESPONSIVENESS OF NATIONAL PRIDE LINKED TO COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND STATESMANSHIP IN MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS. SUGGEST EMPHASIS ON OVERALL ASPECTS OF WORLDWIDE ENERGY RESOURCES PROBLEM IN WHICH CURRENT CRISIS ONLY ONE ELEMENT.

2. MAJOR QUESTION FOR U.S. POLICY FROM SOVIET VIEWPOINT -- THOUGH IT HAS NOT YET BEEN RAISED EXPLICITLY HERE -- IS EFFECT U.S. POLICY OF SELF SUFFICIENCY WOULD HAVE ON JOINT U.S.-SOVIET DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES IN SIBERIA. SOVIETS MAY WONDER WHETHER THEIR SUPPORT FOR ARAB USE OF OIL WEAPON WILL AFFECT U.S. CONSIDRATION OF ENERGY PLANS FOR SIBERIA. WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO PRE-JUDGE POLICY DECISION, WE BELIEVE IT MIGHT HAVE HEALTHY EFFECT IF SOVIETS WERE LEFT IN DOUBT FOR A WHILE ON THIS MATTER.

3. SOME OTHER QUESTIONS IMPLICIT FOR US POLICY FROM PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SOVIET REACTION: (A) HOW WILL US REACT TOWARD ARABS?

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(B) WHAT ROLE WILL US PLAY IN MIDEAST OVERALL ESPECIALLY

RE SUPPORT OF ISRAEL? (C) DID USSR INFLUENCE ARABS DECISIONS?
(D) HAS US-USSR DETENTE BEEN AFFECTED (PRIVATELY DENIED)? (E)
WILL US BE SIGNIFICANTLY WEAKENED, ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY?
(F) HOW WILL AMERICAN DAILY LIFE CHANGE? (G) WHAT SPECIFIC US
PRACTICAL MEASURES ARE UNDERWAY AND PLANNED? (H) HOW WILL US-
EUROPEAN, JAPANESE RELATIONS DEVELOP?
DUBS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOSCOW14941
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973115/aaaaadph.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 234037
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Oct-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <05-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENERGY SITUATION REACTION
TAGS: PFOR, UR
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005